



Town & Parish Council Conference

9th June 2010



Welcome and Introduction

**Cllr Tricia Turner MBE - Leader
Central Bedfordshire Council**



0300 300 8019



New Government – opportunities and challenges

Cllr Richard Stay – Deputy Leader
Central Bedfordshire Council

Cllr Maurice Jones – Finance, People &
Governance Portfolio Holder
Central Bedfordshire Council

Times are changing



The (Cunning) Plan

“A seriously
ambitious
programme for
change”



It's the Economy Stupid!

Central
Bedfordshire



Above all else – it's about money!



What we do know.....

£6.2 billion

(Less than 1% of HMG spend)

What we don't know



“Repairing the public finances will be the defining domestic policy task of the Government”.

Robert Chote - Institute of Fiscal Studies

Conservatives declared £11.3billion
spending cuts - only 18% specified
Lib Dems declared £12billion
spending cuts - only 26% specified

What lies ahead?

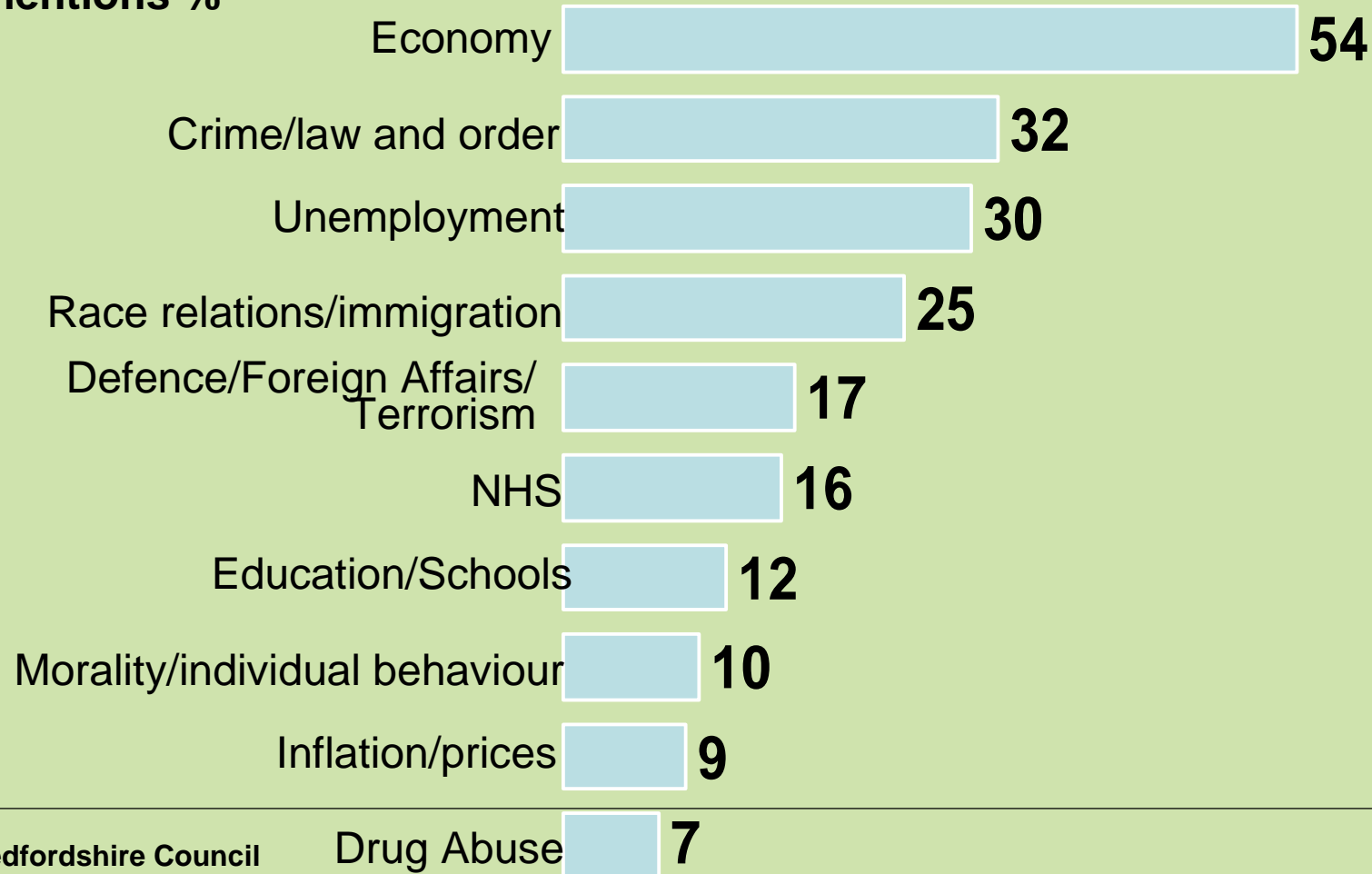
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Bedfordshire**



What would you say is the most important issue facing Britain today? What do you see as other important issues facing Britain today?

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Top mentions %





Public concern

- The economy is the number one public concern
- Unemployment also an issue
- Local government has the responsibility to rise to this challenge.

Financial pressures – this year

Proportionately low
government grant

Greater demand for
services – less income

Ambition to limit
Council Tax increases



Financial pressures

- £10m saving in first year
- £12m savings in 2010/11
- £ ??? to come
- Efficiencies
- Service reductions



Challenging decisions



Challenging decisions

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Bedfordshire

Risk of redundancies as cutbacks continue

Report by Paul Fisher
and Sarah Pearson

At 60 cuts, council tax rises and a "hugely exciting" future of delving into "services residents want" make up Tricia Turner's vision for Central Beds Council six months after the creation.

Since the overhaul of Bedfordshire's political make-up and the creation of Central Beds unitary authority on April 1, the council leader has been working seven days a week, but found time to speak to the Chronicle about the challenges ahead.

TRICIA TURNER ON:

THE NEW PROJECT: "I think the economic climate will have to improve to get people to fund a project as exciting as Nish. I want to see it come to fruition because I want Beds to be a tourist destination not for this just somewhere people pass through."

COUNCIL TAX: "We never said it would be reduced from the very start. There would be too many cuts at the outset to

reduce the level of tax.

"We cannot deliver the sort of services people are looking for without having sufficient money to do it. It was a 2.5 per cent increase. I still understand it is an increase for people. I hope the increase will be smaller still next time."

TRAVELER SITES: "When we have any consultation on additional sites for travellers, we know the answers before

we go out to consultation I'm afraid. The sites chosen previously did not find favour, particularly in the Stotfold area.

"All sites on the table previously are still there as well as new sites."

HOUSING GROWTH: "We need the necessary infrastructure to support these new communities. Already there is an infrastructure deficit, not

just roads, I mean healthcare, water supply, drainage, schools, etc.

"We know we have problems already, any new development will only compound this."

"Flying back from France you know the sporadic settlements and come back to England. It from shore to shore and you think, why are we putting further developments in the south of the country?"



On April 1, South Beds and Mid Beds District Coun-

cils in the first quarter budget.

an acceptable amount for a council this size.

come immediately.

"We know we would not

going to be cutting out more jobs too, if we feel they are

Challenging decisions

BEDFORDSHIRE **on Sunday**

www.beds

Council loses faith in free school bus

BY ELLEN FRAMPTON
elfr@bedsccouncil

HUNDREDS of parents will face difficulties after it was decided that their children will not be entitled to free transport to school.

Central Bedfordshire Council agreed its new Home to School Transport Policy at an executive meeting this week.

As part of the changes, children at faith schools will have to fund their own transport from September. At present, transport is provided for around 300 children to attend the nearest school of their denomination.

This costs £2,000 per pupil per year, significantly more than children at mainstream schools.

Under the new policy, only children over the age of 11 who meet the low income criteria will be entitled to free transport where the closest school is between two and 15 miles.

Mums4Democracy, a local campaign group of parents whose children attend faith schools, protested outside the meeting at Priory House,

Chicksands. One member, Maria Pires of Keel Gardens in Biggleswade, said: "It is disgraceful and we can't believe this has happened."

"We are being put in the same category as private schools but it says in the law that a child has a right to be educated according to their religion."



Ms Pires, 42, whose children attend Catholic schools, explained that the extra charges will have an immense impact on her life.

She emphasised how difficult it is for working parents to arrange school transport for their children and said: "I will have no money for this and I can't raise any more."

"It will cost £2,000 a year for each of my two eldest children to take the train and bus to John Henry Newman School in Stevenage and I will have to drive my youngest to St John's School in Bedford."

The new policy will also affect children with special educational needs.

From the next academic year only children living more than

two or three miles from their school, or those who could not be reasonably expected to walk to school, will be eligible for free transport.

Cllr Anita Lewis, portfolio holder for children's services at the council said: "We have had to make a very difficult decision here."

"We understand some are going to be disappointed that they will no longer qualify for free school transport but we must make our services more efficient so we can protect the critical services we provide."

"Rest assured we will now be working with parents and diocese representatives to help make any transition in September as smooth as possible."

Inquest into stab death victim, 36, is adjourned

AN INQUEST has opened into the death of a 36-year-old man who was found at his home last Sunday night. Matthew Rowe of Barkers Lane, Bedford, died from a stab wound to his neck.

What it means for you?

- Highways Parish Partnership Fund
- Town Centre Management Grants
- Small reductions to Community and Voluntary Sector Grants
- Capital Programme Review



Financial pressures – next year



“Dear Chief Secretary,

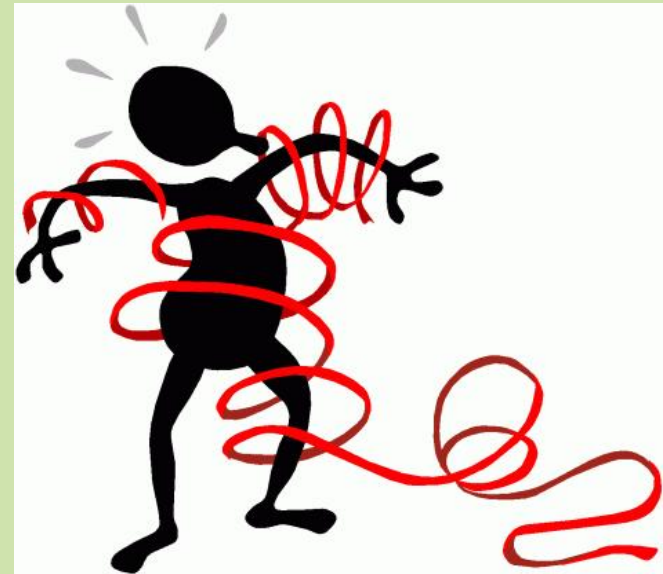
Apologies, there’s no
money left.
Good Luck”

Liam Byrne



Strategic response – efficiency measures

- Cutting bureaucracy
- Streamlining processes
- Avoiding duplication



Strategic response – efficiency measures

- Smarter use of our resources
- Joint procurement
- Contract reviews



Strategic response – efficiency measures

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Do it online



[Breach of planning control](#)

In the spotlight



Strategic response – efficiency measures



- Working collaboratively across the public sector
- Sharing services
- Pooling resources



A (Brave) New World.....





The Big Society

“This, then, is our new role for the state.

Galvanising, catalysing, prompting, encouraging and agitating for community engagement and social renewal. It must help families, individuals, charities and communities come together to solve problems.

We must use the state to help stimulate social action.”

From state dependency....



To community self-reliance

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Changing the ground rules

Efficiency alone
will not be
enough – *we
must stop doing
some things*



DIY services

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Central Bedfordshire Council

Adversity is the mother of invention

Central
Bedfordshire





Our Sustainable Community Strategy

A New Prospectus for Central Bedfordshire

Richard Carr – Chief Executive



A shared vision...

“Globally connected,
delivering sustainable
growth to ensure a green,
prosperous and ambitious
place for the benefit of all”



The qualities of our patch

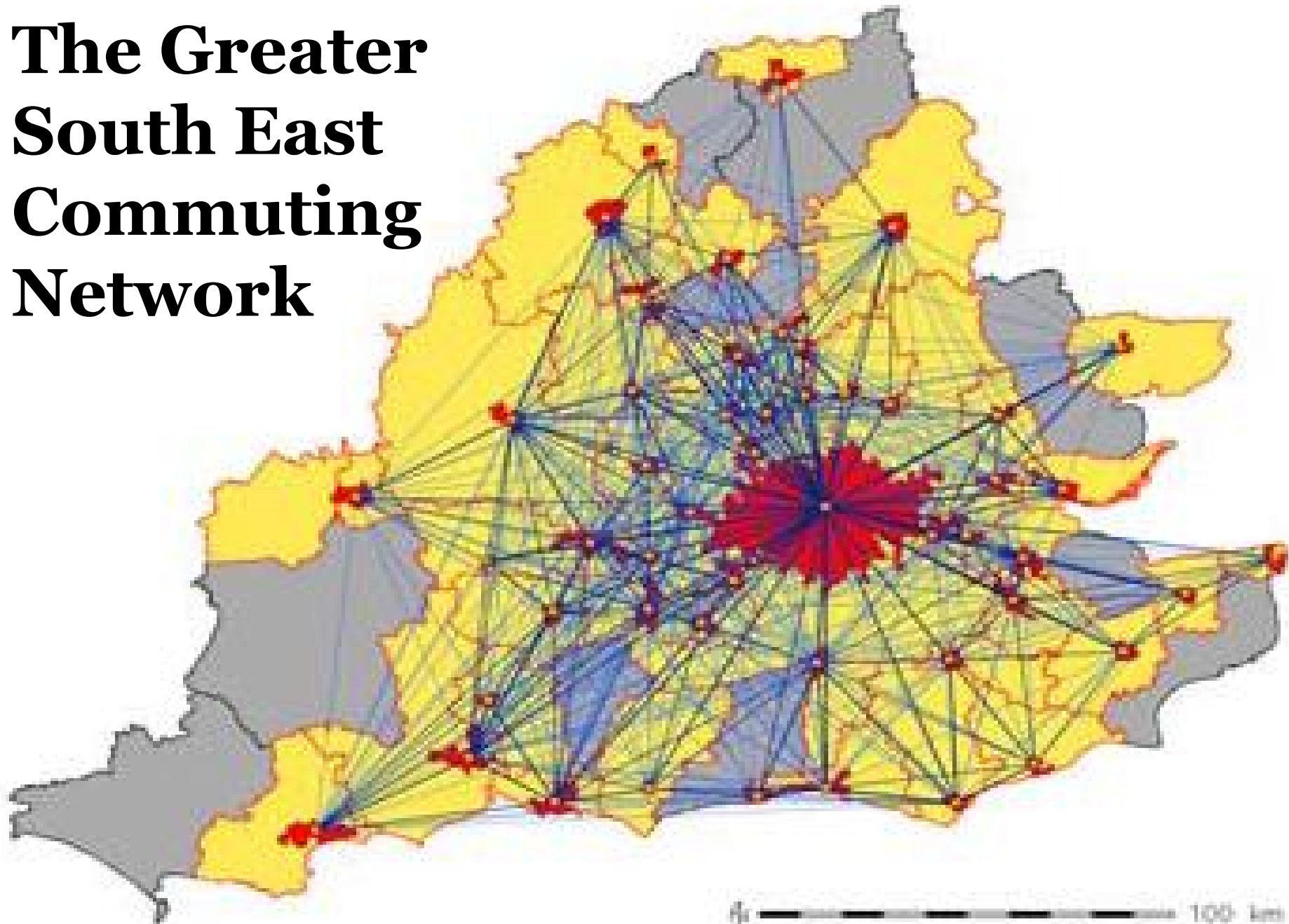


Great transport links

Central
Bedfordshire



The Greater South East Commuting Network



Great shopping and leisure

Central
Bedfordshire



Central Bedfordshire Council

Quality of environment



Education & innovation

**Central
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Cranfield University



Cranfield Innovation Centre



Central Bedfordshire College

Entrepreneurial business

Central
Bedfordshire



Central Bedfordshire Council

Growth

**Central
Bedfordshire**



Central Bedfordshire Council

New Govt... New agenda?



A successful economy has:



- **High levels of economic success**
- **High levels of skills/ knowledge**
- **One or more universities**
- **Strong communication & connectivity (air, road, rail)**
- **Distinctive long term investment**
- **Strategies to ensure all communities benefit**

Creating the right conditions for success



- **Achieve economic growth**
- **Raise standards**
- **Tackle inequalities**
- **Appropriate housing growth**
- **Maintain our distinctiveness**

Getting there



- Largest investment in infrastructure in the region
- Improved Cycle and Green Infrastructure
- Expansion of Cranfield and University of Bedfordshire
- Highest levels of employment of the region
- Highly skilled and professional workforce resident in the area
- Big Private sector investment coming forward
- Award winning, high quality housing design

Town & Parish Councils... key role



- For Central Bedfordshire to thrive, we need:
- Vibrant communities
- Attractive environment
- Sense of pride
- Sense of belonging
- Sense of purpose

Conclusion



- We can't ignore the growth agenda
- Risk of becoming a 'dormitory' area?
- Need to maximise economic potential of the area
- **Collectively** we can shape the future success of Central Bedfordshire



Town & Parish Councils ...

In the Spotlight



Cllr Brian Sadler

Leader

Leighton Linslade Town Council



Expressions Beauty Studios

Recommend a friend and receive 50% off any beauty treatment

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**New Printed Town
Directory
Delivered in June**

[Click here for details](#)

**Leighton Buzzard
Summer Festival**

I Love LB
Sun, 13 Jun 2010



**The only local website totally committed and dedicated to encouraging people to shop locally,
to utilise the businesses and services available within Leighton Buzzard and to go local first!**

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Start

Citrix XenApp - Applicati...

Peter Fraser - T&PC3 - M...

Presentations - \\Remot...

I Love Leighton Buzza...

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09:10

Dunstable Town Council

CORPORATE PLAN

2010 - 2013

Presentation by David Ashlee – Town Clerk



**DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL**

Why have a Corporate Plan?

- Compulsion?
- Informs Members, staff, residents and partners what the Council intends to do
- Where discretion exists, gives clarity and focus
- Why not a Town Plan?
- Council spends £millions of public money



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

New Peter Newton Community Centre - £1.5million



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Improved Dunstable Cemetery

£650,000



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Improved Play Areas

£320,000



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Creasy Park Football Hub

£3million joint project with CBC



TRICO Site - Proposed Pavilion
Public Consultation - 15 January 2009



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CIVIC PRIDE – REFURBISHED GATED ENTRANCE TO GROVE HOUSE GARDENS



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Why a Corporate Plan now?

- New Council formed in June 2009 including 10 new Members
- New Senior Management Team recruited during 2009 following management restructure
- Position in Growth Area
- Formation of new unitary authority



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Process

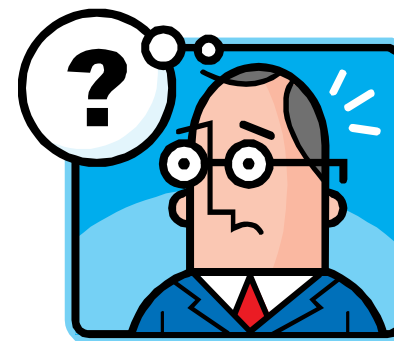
- Senior management and Member Away Day
November 2009
- Presentation and workshop April 2010
- Adoption by Full Council 5 July 2010



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

What does the Corporate Plan achieve for Dunstable Town Council?

- Sets out organisation vision
- Sets out organisation priorities
- Sets out key actions
- Sets out performance measures
- Not a Town Plan (*a Corporate Plan does as opposed to influences*)
- Corporate Plan will be Council's
- guiding policy document



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Council Priorities

- **To represent residents and businesses of Dunstable on key strategic issues facing the town**
- **To preserve and enhance the history and identity of the town**
- **To improve and develop the provision of green and open space in the town**
- **To improve services targeted to all community sectors in the town**
- **To contribute to the regeneration of the town centre and development of neighbourhoods**
- **in the town**



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Actions

- Secure additional grounds maintenance responsibilities from CBC
- Secure the right to manage Dunstable's Market or ideally the market rights from CBC
- Create and manage a new sport/community facility on the existing Creasy Park/Brewers Hill School and Peppercorn Park site
- To help deliver the Master Plan for Dunstable's town centre
- Improve partnership working with public, private and voluntary sector agencies in order to maximise new service opportunities



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Open Forum



Closing Remarks

**Cllr Tricia Turner MBE - Leader
Central Bedfordshire Council**